

Just yesterday, the friday before memorial day I was leaving Hayward, CA at Noon in my 18 wheeler heading North to Seattle. I have three choices for a route out of the Bay Area but I have to decide quickly. I had been listening to KGO radio until that dreadful Paul Harvey one hour infomercial came on. I switched it back on and suffered for about 15 minutes but alas, no traffic info. Then i remembered XM's local traffic channels and within seconds I heard about an accident with big backups on 880 and another on the approach to the Carquinez bridge. I headed out 580 to Tracy and joined I-5 without any aggravating delays. Why would anyone want to take that away. Americans talk endlessly about the wonders of capitalism and competition and claim our economic system is the envy of the free world. In truth, however what we do have is a system so rife with corruption and cronyism that it is the envy of the third world. I don't blame the broadcast media for being afraid. I turned my radio off almost completely a couple of years before XM, it's all right wing diatribe and sleazy sales pitches anyway. At home, in my little neighborhood, we are the only ones with a television and probably not for long. We're dropping the cable because we can't get just the programing we want and of course there is no competition.